

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed November 27, 2006. Claims 2, 3, 8-15, 17-22, 24, 28-30, and 35-41 were pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 8-15, 17-21, and 35-41 are allowed. This Amendment amends claims 3, 22, and 24, without adding or canceling any claims, leaving pending in the application claims 2, 3, 8-15, 17-22, 24, 28-30, and 35-41. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

Claims 2, 3, 8-15, 17-21, and 35-41 are allowed.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 22, 24, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Havinis* (US 6,104,931) in view of *Layson* (US 5,731,757) in view of *Melton* (US 5,255,306) or *Wortham* (US 5,884,221). As indicated previously and reiterated in the present office action on page 2, these claims would be allowable if re-written to incorporate the limitations of claims (2 or 3 or 9) along with claims (4 through 7). Applicants respectfully submit that these claims as previously presented incorporated such limitations, but have amended the independent claims to further and more clearly include the limitations of one of claims 2, 3, or 9 along with the limitations of all of claims 4-7. For example, claim 22 as amended recites the limitations of previously pending dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (such as were set forth in the response of June 16, 2006). Further, claim 24 as amended recites the limitations of previously pending dependent claims 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. As indicated on page 2 of the Office Action mailed on July 28, 2006, adding such limitations to the independent claims renders them allowable over these references. As independent claims 22 and 24 recite these limitations, and claims 28-30 depend therefrom, these claims are allowable over the cited references. As this response is being filed by the two-month date, an Advisory Action is respectfully requested before the end of the period for reply if such amendments are still determined to not render the claims allowable. Applicants

respectfully request that the rejections with respect to claims 22, 24, and 28-30 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

III. Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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